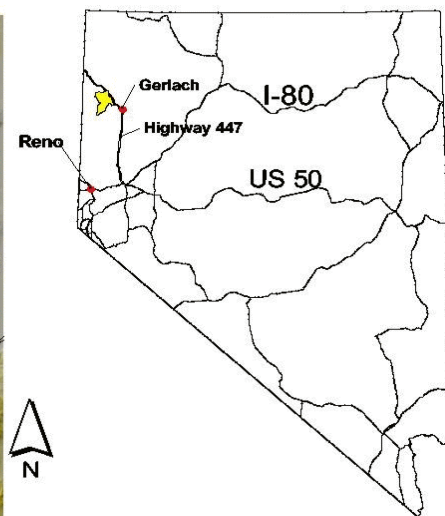




The Buffalo Hills Herd Management Area (HMA) is located in central Washoe County, approximately 70 miles north of Reno, Nevada. The HMA contains approximately 132,410 acres of public and private lands. The terrain in the area consists of a circular shaped basaltic plateau dominated by large, rugged, rocky canyons. Elevations within the HMA range from 3,823 feet along the Smoke Creek Desert to 6,832 at Poodle Mountain. Climate is characterized by warm dry days, cool nights and low yearly precipitation that ranges from 4 to 6 inches at lower elevations to approximately 12 inches at higher elevations. The area is also utilized by domestic livestock during part of the year and numerous wildlife species. Typical wildlife species found in the area include mule deer, pronghorn antelope, sage grouse, chukar partridge, coyote, and various rodents. The Poodle Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA) is located within the HMA.

Vegetation varies from salt desert shrub communities at lower elevations to big sagebrush/grass communities at upper elevations. Typical species in the salt desert shrub community include shadscale, bud sage, winterfat, black greasewood, Indian ricegrass, squirreltail and Sandberg bluegrass. Species typical of the sagebrush/grass communities include low sage, Wyoming sagebrush, mountain big sagebrush, bitterbrush, rabbitbrush, Utah juniper, needlegrass, basin wild-rye, squirreltail, Indian paintbrush and phlox.



Herd Description

The appropriate management level (AML) for wild horses in the HMA is managed in a range from 236 to 314 head. Periodic removals are conducted to maintain the population within the management range. Horses within the HMA are descendants of ranch horses that either escaped or were released into the area, and horses that were raised for the cavalry remount program. The majority of horses exhibit a bay, brown or sorrel color pattern. It is not possible to provide any specific information about the parentage of wild horses in the area.